

Application Serial No.: 09/646,343
Amendment dated June 13, 2003
Reply to Office Action dated February 13, 2003

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-16 are presently active in this case, Claims 1, 5, 8, 15, and 16 having been amended by way of the present Amendment.

The Applicants wish to thank Examiner Karla Moore for the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative, Christopher Ward, during the telephone interview conducted on June 12, 2003.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claims 1-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Regarding the rejection of the phrase "the processing gas forming a thin film on the target object mounted on the mounting table," Claims 1 and 16 have been amended as discussed during the telephone interview to recite "a first gas supply section provided in the container, for supplying processing gas into the processing chamber adapted to form a thin film on the target object mounted on the mounting table." Thus, the Applicants submit that the claims have been clarified to indicate that the apparatus is capable of forming a thin film. Regarding the rejection of Claims 5, 8, and 15, these claims have been amended to recite the limitations therein in structural terms.

Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the indefiniteness rejections.

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Claims 1-4, 6, 8-14, and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cheng et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,304,248) in view of Hayakawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,383,971). Claims 5 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cheng et al. and Hayakawa et al. and further in view of Bunkofske (U.S. Patent No. 5,705,223). Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cheng et al. and Hayakawa et al. and further in view of Anderson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,551,982). For the reasons discussed below, the Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the obviousness rejections.

The Applicant submits that a *prima facie* case of obviousness as defined in MPEP 2143 cannot be established in the present case because the cited references, either taken singularly or in combination, do not teach or suggest all of the claim limitations.

As discussed during the telephone interview, the Applicants submit that the cited references fail to disclose or suggest a film deposition apparatus comprising, among other features, a first gas flow path *defined by* a mounting table and a second heating apparatus, as recited in Claim 1 of the present application. The Cheng et al. reference is cited in the Official Action for the teaching of a first flow path as indicated by the upwards arrows in Figure 5, where the first flow path is formed between the susceptor (40) and the support (70/76) provided for the clamp. The first flow path recited in amended Claim 1 is recited as being defined by the mounting table and the second heating apparatus. The Applicants respectfully submit that the Cheng et al. reference does not disclose a flow path *defined by*

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the susceptor (40) and the support (70/76)(assuming solely for the sake of argument that the support 70/76 is being properly cited in combination with a secondary reference for the teaching of the second heating apparatus of Claim 1). The Hayakawa et al. reference fails to supplement this deficiency. Thus, the Applicants request the withdrawal of the obviousness rejection of Claim 1.

Claims 2-15 are considered allowable for the reasons advanced for Claim 1 from which they depend. These claims are further considered allowable as they recite other features of the invention that are neither disclosed, taught, nor suggested by the applied references when those features are considered within the context of Claim 1.

As discussed during the telephone interview, the Applicants submit that the cited references also fail to disclose or suggest a film deposition apparatus comprising, among other features, a movable clamp for clamping an edge portion of the target object *by an inner peripheral tapered surface of the clamp* and holding the target object on the mounting table, as recited in Claim 16 of the present application. The Cheng et al. reference is cited in the Official Action for the teaching of a clamp. However, as described in the Cheng et al. reference at column 5, line 64, through column 6, line 3, the Cheng et al. reference is described as having a shield ring (50) having a flat inner lip (56) with a flat underside that is configured to contact the top surface of the wafer (1) "to enhance the dealing therebetween." Inner edge (54) of the shield ring (50), however, is not described as being configured to clamp an edge portion of the target object. The Hayakawa et al. reference fails to supplement

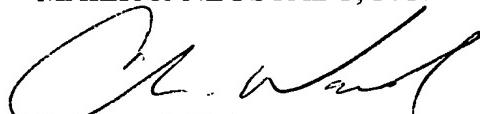
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this deficiency. Thus, the Applicants request the withdrawal of the obviousness rejection of
Claim 16.

Consequently, in view of the above discussion, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of this application is therefore requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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